

Simplicity and Art in Japanese Furnishings



SLOWLY but surely American housewives are introducing Japanese furnishings into their summer homes to remain as permanent fixtures. The result is sure to be artistic and hygienic, not to mention the reasonable cost, which in most cases is an important factor.

A characteristic virtue is the lightness of the furniture and the simplicity of construction that enables it to be readily kept clean. There are so many attractive and inexpensive smaller details of interior decorations and necessities such as the various tea sets, candlesticks, lamps, brasses, pottery and quaint designs symbolical of their religion and native customs, that the field of choice is practically limitless.

No matter how ornate a thing may be or how much elaborate work has been put upon it, the effect withal is unmatched in its simple beauty.

There are no crowded apartments littered with useless and unlovely furnishings in Japan, as seen in many American homes. On the contrary, the Japanese house is very sparsely furnished, and you wonder where and how they live with so few household requisites which American people simply could not exist without.

They never bother about housecleaning and the weekly sweeping and scrubbing are practically unknown, because their homes are always kept as they should be, immaculately clean and free from useless furnishings.

This hygienic and practical scheme simplifies housekeeping to about one-third, and is recommended to American housekeepers who have not yet learned the wisdom of their almond-eyed cousins across the sea.

BAMBOO AND MATTING FURNITURE.

Bamboo furniture in combination with fine matting is shown in a variety of very attractive designs admirably suited by their style for cool, summery interiors. Some of the more expensive patterns in chairs and similar furnishings are made more distinctive by hand-painted floral studies executed in that smooth, mysterious way that artists of no other nation can equal.

The alternatives of this decoration are the stencils on matting somewhat suggestive of those

weird hieroglyphics that characterize their handwriting. All pieces are well made, light in weight and inexpensive, as the following quoted prices will prove.

A hand-painted hall or dining chair is retailed for \$2.50; attractive corner chairs, square and circular, from \$2 to \$4.50. Settees from \$6 to \$10; tea tables from \$1.75 to \$6. Tea tables, by the way, are shown in a pleasing assortment of styles, square, oblong, circular, and those that simulate a three-leaf clover. The trimmings, of course, are of bamboo, prettily mottled. Some have two or more shelves, and others little wing projections not unlike English muffin stands that have become so fashionable within the last few years. The weight of these tables practically amounts to nothing, so they can be moved about without any difficulty.

A new model for a tea table is quite low and of ample top. The sketch of this appears in the second illustration at the top of the page, and by its structure is particularly firm. Two other tables are given from this season's favorite styles.

SHIRTWAIST BOXES IN DEMAND.

So many boxes built after the plan of the invaluable shirtwaist box are being sold for country homes, and are variously appropriated for piazza, hall and window seats, and also serve the purpose of accommodating sporting regalia, such as tennis racquets, nets, balls and what not that collects from everywhere.

They are also used for magazines and papers, umbrellas, canes and wearing apparel. The smallest size is sold for \$2.50, and is a special bargain at that price.

There are also complete bedroom sets, a combination of bamboo and matting, besides book-racks, foot stools, desks and other essential furnishings.

TEMPTING TEA SETS.

A suburban piazza that does not boast of a little Japanese tea table laden with its dainty

Bead Portiere, Bamboo Tea Table and Kutani China



Screen and Tea Table for Porch

Hanging Jardinieres Patterned after Japanese

china, Kochi, Kutani, Satsuma, Oribi, or the blue and white patterns, is the exception to the general hospitable rule.

Very fashionable this year are the brilliant colors of Kochi in emerald green, bright scarlet and vivid yellow. Its ware is opaque and therefore, is more durable than the transparent patterns. The dearest little tea pots very flat and squatly looking, are shown in Kochi, the handles being of wicker.

Kochi is shown in a host of flower vases, with or without the covering of brown wicker; jar-

diniere large and small, quaint receptacles used for various purposes and for candlesticks. Pieces in this ware may be had as low as ten cents in the form of wee pots for dwarf Japanese trees and plants.

Oribi is another opaque ware and is seen in an uncertain shade of pale green, a most artistic hue, nevertheless. Berry ice cream sets, nut and fruit bowls abound in Kutani.

Old Canton china is always favored by those who care to pay the price, when whole sets are purchased. Fruit bowls as single pieces are of-

ten used, and a sketch of design is shown in the left-hand corner.

Gosuke ware is handpainted, underglazed, and is shown in a remarkably tempting assortment of dishes. A good imitation selling at less cost is the everyday blue and white Jap ware.

ARTISTIC FLOWER RECEPTACLES.

A most unique idea shown in brass and Kochi ware are well buckets patterned after those used in old Japan, and which operate on a pulley. Sketches of these are also shown, and make de-

lightful decorations for porches to support pillars or posts.

Equally original are jardiniere holders of Chinese rattan, that sell for \$1.50.

There is practically no end to the shapes in flower pots. Odd affairs in the form of a large moth emerging from a cocoon, a cornucopia, the picture of other equally bizarre designs. These price from ten cents upwards.

Some very attractive large lamp sticks are shown in Kotchi, the either of rice paper of the Geisha type, or with wicker.

Others are of brass in combination with brush brass is very effective in combination with this attractive ware, especially in yellow. A candlestick in the shape of a crane, his head supporting the candle, is a design that immediately strikes the eye. Many of the brass and Kotchi sticks have the "hurricane" shade of glass, a much sought after model.

OTHER QUAIN FURNISHINGS.

The newest idea in dinner gongs, are many interesting examples, is shown the "Gates of Old Japan."

There has been a sudden and surprising demand for bead portieres within a few weeks, which is puzzling to those who are unable to fill the orders at the moment.

For a transparent and more decorative nothing cooler and more decorative, so simple, than these strings of beads. These range in price from \$4 to \$10.

Japanese screens are in good demand. Hand embroidered in silk are admirably and exquisitely designed screens, are a delicate gray satin embroidered with white birds that stood out fully from the surface. On the other hand, these same pink beaded birds rising from the surface. The neutral brown and low of the waving grass threw the plumage of the birds into bold relief, that touch to the picture that only the little brown men can produce.

Romances of Pictures

FEW things inanimate are more prone to adventure than pictures. Only the other day, while they were cleaning an old church near Omega, Italy, six beautiful frescoes by Ferrari were found under a thick coating of whitewash. How they came to be blotted out it passeth the wit of man to say.

A Titian of immense value, also, lay hidden for nearly twenty years in a small picture-shop in the Latin Quarter of Paris. An American customer had the curiosity to examine the picture carefully, and bought it for a small sum. On being cleaned its value became apparent, and the lucky owner sold it for \$45,000.

In the early part of last century a "Holy Family" by Raphael disappeared from the collection of the Rovere family. Many years after a traveler in Italy was surprised to see an oil painting fitted into a window in place of glass. The peasant who lived in the house explained that the glass had got broken, and, being too poor to summon the glazier, he had patched it up with the picture. It was the long lost Raphael.

A beautiful Rubens was discovered lining the lid of an old traveling trunk offered at a second-hand sale in Brussels; the "Magdalene" of Correggio was found in a hay-loft, frameless and filthy; and another Raphael was discovered in the loft of a Normandy church by some visitors who went to examine the roof.

A LUCKY INCIDENT.

An artist touring in Spain was obliged to put up at a very disreputable-looking inn. Having supped, he drew his chair towards the fire, and soon fell into a doze. He woke suddenly, to find a man coming towards him with a drawn knife. The artist whipped out his pistol and fired at random. The robber fled unharmed, but the bullet cut the cord by which an old painting hung, and the picture fell with a crash. The innkeeper was indignant, and demanded compensation. The artist, having closely examined the painting, offered to buy it for a few shillings.

The sale was made, and when he returned to civilization the artist found his suspicions verified. It was a Velasquez, worth hundreds of dollars.

Many years ago a couple of Oxford undergraduates went to investigate a ghost story. In the room which was said to be haunted they found three old pictures which the farmer's wife characterized as "lumber." The ghost refused to be "laid," and the undergraduates departed. They took with them the three old pictures which they bought for a trifle. After being cleaned and restored, two of them were found to be Hobbemas, one of which changed hands for \$3000. The other turned out to be a Van Dyck, and was sold for \$7500.

MARRIED THE ARTIST.

But a picture may have a romantic interest without being lost or stolen. An Indian prince, while visiting the Royal Academy, fell in love with the picture of a young girl. He called on the artist, and offered him \$1000 for the picture if he would give the name of his model. The artist sent for the lady, who was presented to the prince. The latter found her as beautiful as her picture, and offered his hand and heart. The lady was "willin'."

It is said to destroy what might have been a pretty romance, but when the lady's father found that she would be one of several wives, he crushed Love's young dream, and married his daughter to the artist.

A few years back an artist painted the picture of a flower-girl for the Academy. It was accepted, and hung in Burlington House. Soon after the opening day a distinguished and wealthy gentleman called on the artist. He explained that he had deserted his wife fifteen years before, and he was certain the original of the flower-girl picture was his daughter, from her likeness to his wife. And he was right. He found his child selling flowers in Piccadilly Circus. Her mother had been dead several years, but she was able to satisfy any doubts as to their relationship.

Timely Luncheon Recipes

CELERY SOUP.

One bunch of celery boiled in a quart of water. Mash and strain through a sieve, add a quart of milk; thicken with one tablespoon of flour dissolved in two tablespoons of melted butter; season with salt and white pepper. Whip one-half pint of cream, put in the tureen, and pour the soup over it. Serve at once.

SQUASH SOUP.

Take about two pounds of squash, cut off the rind and boil till soft; press through a sieve, and then add a quart of scalded milk; add a pinch of salt, a little sugar, and cinnamon, and let boil up once; serve with buttered croutons.

SALMON CROQUETTES.

One can salmon mashed, two cups cracker crumbs, six tablespoons of milk, four tablespoons of melted butter, one egg, one-half teaspoonful mustard, a little salt and pepper. Form into small balls and roll in crumbs, egg and crumbs again, and fry in hot fat.

CHINESE FISH.

Take one and one-half pounds of any white fish, boil in water, in which put two slices of onion and one tablespoonful of salt; boil twenty minutes; take out, flake apart, put on a butter platter, season with salt and pepper; take one-half cup of cream, one-quarter cup milk and pour over the fish; boil four large potatoes, mash, sea-

son with salt, pepper, and one tablespoonful of butter; have the whites of two eggs beaten very stiff, cut and fold into the mashed potato; put over fish and brush over the top with the two yolks beaten light; put in the oven and brown; garnish and serve hot.

STUFFED TOMATOES.

Take a dozen smooth, ripe tomatoes, remove the pulp or all of the inside and fill the space with a dressing of bread crumbs moistened with very little warm water and seasoned with salt, pepper, and a little powdered sugar; place a lump of butter on each tomato, lay them close together in a buttered tin, bake one-half an hour.

GRAHAM BREAD.

Two quarts graham flour, one pint white flour, one-half cup lard, one cup molasses, one tablespoonful salt, one yeast cake.

Mix graham and white flour and rub lard in thoroughly; then add dissolved yeast cake and molasses, add water and mix same as white bread; let rise until light, then mould into three loaves and let rise until twice its size; bake one hour in moderate oven; when done garnish top crust with butter.

BEEF SALAD.

Take four medium sized beets, boil soft, chop fine, pack in a bowl, put in a pinch of mustard, pepper, one teaspoonful salt, one tablespoonful sugar, cover with cold vinegar; let them stand till next day.

Try to be Womanly

THE diversions and athletics of the modern society woman smack too strongly of abandon. It is well enough for women to indulge in moderation in out of door sports and recreations; it is not, however, necessary that they should devote so much time to making "records" winning "championships," or in neck and neck competitions with men in the manly sports.

People of the old school cannot refrain from dreading the unfavorable effect on the next generation of automobilism, yachting, fencing and the present strenuous life of some women.

Let the leisure class cultivate greater veneration for holy things, insist upon less dissipation of every kind, less display and extravagant dress, and more respect for industry, and we shall see women stronger morally, more interested in elevating pursuits and less given over to frivolities.

Making Old Things New

BLACK stockings are apt to assume a greenish look after repeated washings. It is said that a simple way of preserving the color is to wash them in soap that is free from soda, and to add in the last rinsing water a teaspoonful of good vinegar. Wring them out and clap them into shape. A hot iron tends to destroy the color, particularly if they are wet.

Sheepskin rugs may be cleaned at home in a sud of white soap. To each gallon of suds add one tablespoonful of borax dissolved in half a pint of boiling water. When the suds are tepid put in the rug and let it soak for half an hour or more. Wash well, then wash in a weaker suds and rinse in cold water to which very little soap has been added. Press out the water and hang the rug in the shade to dry. When half dry rub it between the hands to prevent the hairs from becoming stiff.

For shrinking linen the following instructions have been found to be very satisfactory. First, after a bathtub has been carefully dusted, fill it about quarter full with clear cold water. It should be first filtered if it is at all dark or cloudy. Then, leaving the linen in its folds, wrap it in a clean towel and allow it to remain in the water over night. When taken out in the morning do not wring the water from it, but leaving it still folded, hang it up dripping. It will take some time to dry, but your material will be thoroughly shrunken, and will not need to be pressed until after your skirt is made. For cleaning a white fox scarf use Indian meal or bran.

SALT WATER FOR WILLOW WARE.

Scrub the willow chairs well with strong salt water, and if they are very much soiled add a little household ammonia. Lace curtains can be dry cleaned, but they will be much cleaner and better if regularly washed, only done very carefully. First allow them to soak for half an hour in cold water, afterwards washing well in warm soda with a pure white soap and not rubbing the soap on the curtains. After rinsing thoroughly stretch them tightly on curtain frames and put in the sun to dry. If you have not curtain frames, pin them out on a large board—the top of an

ironing table would do—pinning out the lace. You will find these will last longer when finished.

To repaint a bath begin by removing the old paint by filling the bath with boiling water, which a quantity of soda has been dissolved in. Let the bath sit for twelve hours, then empty and scrub it well with a stiff brush and soap. Before beginning to paint see that the bath enamel, stir it well so that it is of a consistency and apply as many coats as are necessary. Put on the paint thinly and let each coat dry before the next is applied. When finished, leave the bath for two or three days before using it. When it is left to dry the better it will be.

TO CLEAN MATTING.

To clean matting it should be first thoroughly washed with a stiff broom, following the straw, then swept cross the grain with a broom that has been dipped in warm water. Wash thoroughly in warm water in which a full of salt has been dissolved. Nothing colored matting so much as salt, and over, it goes far to prevent its fading. If the colored matting should be washed in cold water, it goes far to prevent its fading. If the colored matting should be washed in cold water, it goes far to prevent its fading. If the colored matting should be washed in cold water, it goes far to prevent its fading.

Machine-Made Embroidery. Some newly imported applique machine-made embroidery are intended to imitate the hand-made, and circular gored skirts of lace. The design runs around the hem of the skirt and ascends in tendril shapes to the waist, likewise from the yoke to the girdle.